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2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

20 May 2015

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Regional issues, including with respect to the Middle East and implementation of the 1995 Middle East resolution

Working paper of the Chair of Subsidiary Body 2*

1. The Review Conference reaffirms its support for the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and recalls the affirmation of its goals and objectives by the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The 1995 Resolution remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved. The 1995 Resolution, which was co-sponsored by the depositary States of the Treaty (the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America), is an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995. States parties renew their resolve to undertake, individually and collectively, all necessary measures aimed at its prompt implementation.

2. The Review Conference reaffirms its endorsement of the aims and objectives of the Middle East Peace process, as stated in the 1995 Resolution, and recognizes that efforts in this regard, as well as other efforts, contribute to, inter alia, a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction.

3. The Review Conference reaffirms the urgency and importance of achieving universality of the Treaty. The Review Conference calls on all States in the Middle East that have not yet acceded to the Treaty to do so as non-nuclear-weapon States so as to achieve its universality at an early date.

4. The Review Conference recalls the practical steps adopted at the 2010 Review Conference in order to launch a process leading to a full implementation of the 1995 Resolution.

5. The Review Conference deeply regrets that a conference did not take place in 2012 as agreed. This Review Conference nonetheless welcomes the continuous efforts of the facilitator, Ambassador Jaakko Laajava of Finland, the States of the region, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995

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Resolution in undertaking preparations for the convening of the conference, including through a series of informal consultations among States of the region.

6. The Review Conference takes note of the overwhelming support expressed by the States parties to convene a Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction. To that end, the Review Conference agrees on the following actions:

i. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution and the States of the region, will convene a Conference by 15 December 2015, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region, and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States.

ii. The Conference shall take as its terms of reference the 1995 Resolution. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the three co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution guarantee that the Conference will not be postponed.

iii. In addition to States of the region (defined as members of the League of Arab States, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Israel), the nuclear-weapon States, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU) and the League of Arab States will be invited to attend the Conference as observers.

iv. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, or his designated representative, together with the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, in cooperation with the States of the region, will spare no efforts to ensure proper preparation and a successful outcome of this Conference. The Review Conference urges all States of the region to engage without delay in intensive direct consultations in appropriate formats, at their discretion, including first and foremost through preparatory meetings to which all States of the region will be invited. The primary purpose of these consultations will be to reach consensus on an agenda and a final document of the Conference to ensure convening a successful event that will be a practical first step towards the long-held, common goal of the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

v. If the States of the region are not able to agree amongst themselves on the necessary arrangements for the Conference by 15 November 2015, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, will issue invitations to all States of the region for the Conference to be convened by 15 December 2015.

7. The Conference welcomes the efforts taken by the European Union, IAEA, OPCW, CTBTO and BWC-ISU aimed at supporting the implementation of the 1995 Resolution.

8. The Secretary-General of the United Nations will inform the 2020 Review Conference and each session of its Preparatory Committee on progress made and the status of the implementation of the 1995 Resolution.

9. The Conference takes note of the reaffirmation by the five nuclear-weapon States of their commitment to a full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

10. The 2015 Review Conference reaffirms that all States parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States and the States of the region, should continue to report on steps taken to implement the 1995 Resolution, through the United Nations Secretariat, to the President of the 2020 Review Conference, as well as to the Chairpersons of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference.

11. States should assist the preparation of and holding of the Conference as well as follow-up steps by contributing the necessary funds to enable the Secretary-General of the United Nations to proceed with the arrangements as outlined above in accordance with the established UN financial regulations.

12. The Conference further recognizes the important role played by civil society in contributing to the implementation of the 1995 Resolution and encourages all efforts in this regard.

Other regional issue

1. The Conference condemns the nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2006, 2009 and 2013, and urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from conducting further nuclear tests as required by the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Conference strongly deplores all Democratic People's Republic of Korea's ongoing nuclear activities and urges this country to renounce its policy of building its nuclear forces. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's continued development of nuclear capabilities poses a serious threat to international peace and security and undermines the global non-proliferation regime.

2. The Conference recalls that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the Treaty, and reiterating the international community's opposition to its possession of nuclear weapons, strongly urges the DPRK to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, and return, at an early date, to the Treaty and IAEA safeguards.

3. The Conference calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and take concrete steps to honour its commitment to full implementation of the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. The Conference reaffirms its firm support for the Six-Party Talks so as to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respond to diplomatic efforts aimed at creating favourable conditions for the resumption of Six-Party Talks.